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From:
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Monday, March 14, 2022 1:35 AM
JudTestimony
S.B. 16, H.B. 5416, S.B. 388, H.B. 5415, and H.B. 5412

To Whom it may concern,

I would to express my support for S.B. 16 - I believe it is crucially important that firearms be serialized. As a firearms enthusiast and collector, I believe in the safe, responsible ownership of firearms. Serial numbers help to ensure responsibility by ensuring LEGAL ownership is enforced.

I would next like to express my support for S.B. 388, and H.B. 5412 - It is unfortunately that at times people must face dangerous situations, but when so faced, law enforcement response time is never faster than a citizen's constitutionally protected right to defend oneself. In general, the duty to retreat sounds good on paper - we should at all times attempt to preserve life. But in reality, in far too many situations, duty to retreat is just another way of saying guilty until proven innocent for a person who chose self defense over dying at the hands of a criminal. According to the FBI, over 300,000 crimes are prevented each year BECAUSE of legal firearm owners using those firearms. The right to self defense should never be hindered because someone is in a car or a church or synagogue or mosque and literally could not retreat - had nowhere to retreat to, even though the law seems to require it.

Finally, I would like to express my strong opposition to H.B. 5416 - When I read the title of the bill, I assumed by bulk purchases, it meant purchasing several of the same exact firearm at a time, e.g. someone walking into a gun store and trying to buy 10 Glock 19s at the same time - which would indeed be very suspicious and lead me to believe some sort of gun trafficking was occurring. But the text of the bill seeks to ban any individual from buying more than one firearm in a 30 day period. While, on paper that may seem fine, let's look at the reality.

There was a 14% increase in pistol permit issuance from 2020 to 2021, with the largest demographic group being a 75% increase for women, followed by a 66% increase for Black women. This indicates that our citizens who are most likely to face violence are now seeking to protect themselves from that violence - rightfully so. It is unreasonable to say to a woman who recently had to file a restraining order against an abusing, "You can only buy one gun this month." She must then choose whether to buy a concealed carry pistol - which typically will only have 5 to 8 rounds and an extremely short barrel making the impact of the round far less effective unless at extremely close range; or a home defense pistol which typically will have a longer barrel and the full 10 round capacity, but will be extremely difficult to conceal carry. And if she can only have one home defense firearm, she has to choose which room to keep it in.

Any home defense expert will tell you that if someone breaks into your home intent on killing you (which abusive men very often are), your firearm must be in the room you are in. Should abused women carry their firearm throughout their homes just as they would outside the home? Where should she wear her holster when she gets into her PJs? If she has children living with her, how should she explain why she's constantly wearing her gun to them? At a minimum she should have a reliable firearm in her living room and bedroom - locked in safe which only she can access, but do so quickly if necessary. She should also have a separate carry firearm. That's three pistols she would need to buy to protect herself but....she's only allowed one; all while her abusive ex is out for blood.

On a less serious side is the firearms collectors who at times want to buy two or three pistols they've been wanting to add to their collection. Once again, someone buying 10 Glock 19s is very suspicious. But someone buying two different models, even at the same time, is just a collector.

It is absolutely crucially important that we keep guns out of the hands of criminals, and straw buyers should face the same punishment (in addition to the punishment for the straw purchase) as the person who commit a crime with the gun. But placing more restrictions on law abiding citizens just doesn't make sense. If they did, Chicago and Baltimore would be the safest cities in America.

I appreciate your time.
Christopher Moll, 28 Grand Street in Danbury